

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

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FROM U.S. OBSERVER DELEGATION

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG, UNESCO, CS

SUBJECT: INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE ON COMMUNICATIONS

POLICIES IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN,

SAN JOSE, JULY 12-21

1. VENEZUELAN DELEGATION HAS SUBMITTED DRAFT RESOLUTION UNDER ITEM 7 OF AGENDA (COM-76/LACCOM/3) ON ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL."
2. DRAFT RESOLUTION CALLS FOR THE CONFERENCE TO RECOMMEND TO MEMBER STATES THAT THEY "RECOGNIZE THAT THE BACKWARDNESS OF THE REGION IN THE FIELD (OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION) MUST BE OVERCOME BY FREELY EXERCISING THE SOVEREIGN RIGHT OF PROVIDING THEMSELVES WITH THE MOST ADEQUATE INSTRUMENTS SUCH AS NATIONAL AND REGIONAL NEWS AGENCIES..."
3. CREATION OF NATIONAL AND REGIONAL NEWS AGENCIES WAS PRINCIPAL RECOMMENDATION TO COME OUT OF QUITO MEETING OF EXPERTS IN JUNE, 1975.
4. DR. FISHER OF U.S. OBSERVER DELEGATION HAS BEEN ASKED FOR AN INTERVIEW ON JULY 19 BY U.S. NEWS AGENCIES (AP, UPI) COVERING CONFERENCE. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GUIDANCE ON U.S. POSITION REGARDING VENEZUELAN DRAFT

RESOLUTION ON CREATION OF NATIONAL AND REGIONAL NEWS
AGENCIES. DELEGATION CHIEF DOES NOT WISH TO MAKE
"NO COMMENT" ANSWER IF ASKED U.S. POSITION.

5. FULL TEXT OF DRAFT RESOLUTION FOLLOWS: (BEGIN QUOTES)

ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

THE CONFERENCE,

CONSIDERING THAT THE FREE FLOW OF MESSAGES THROUGHOUT
THE WORLD SHOULD BE BASED UPON JUSTER CRITERIA FOR THE
EXCHANGES BETWEEN NATIONS, AS BEING A PRINCIPLE LIKELY
TO HASTEN THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ORDER BEING SPONSORED BY
THE UNITED NATIONS,

RECOGNIZING THAT SUCH A BALANCED FLOW OF MESSAGES MUST
BE ONE OF THE FACTORS DIRECTLYSEPERATIVE IN BRINGING ABOUT
THE NEW ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ORDER TO WHICH OUR COUNTRIES
ASPIRE

RECOGNIZING THE NEED FOR NEW NATIONAL POLICIES FOR THE
SOVEREIGN DETERMINATION OF RESPECTIVE NEEDS AND PRIORITIES
WITH REGARD TO THE INTERNATIONAL FLOW OF MESSAGES,

RECOGNIZING THAT THE PRINCIPLE
OF THE "FREE FLOW OF
INFORMATION" WILL NOT BE APPLICABLE UNLESS ALL OUR COUNTRIES
HAVE EQUAL ACESS TO ALL THE SOURCES OF INFORMATION AND
TAKE PART ON AN EQUAL FOOTING IN THE CONTROL OVER AND USE
OF INTERNATIONAL CHANNELS OF DISSEMINATION,

CONSIDERING THAT AT PRESENT THE PRINCIPLE OF THE
"FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION" IS WEAKENED BECAUSE OF THE
POLICY WHICH COUNTRIES WITH GREATER TECHNOLOGICAL AND
POLITICAL POWER IN THE FUOLD OF COMMUNICATION AND
INFORMATION AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL HAVE DEVELOPED
IN THIS CONNECTION,

CONVINCED THAT IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES IT SHOULD BE
RECOGNIZED THAT, BECAUSE OF THE SITUATION REFERRED TO
ABOVE, COUNTRIES OF LESSER TECHNOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL
DEVELOPMENT IN THE FIELD OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION
AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL MUST ADOPT THE PRINCIPLES
WHICH GUARANTEE A BALANCED FLOW OF NEWS AND ENSURE THAT
ALL PEOPLES WILL HAVE ACCESS TO AND WILL PARTICIPATE IN
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THE FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION,

THE CONFERENCE RECOMMENDS THAT MEMBER STATES:

1. RECOGNIZE THAT A MORE BALANCED INTERNATIONAL CIRCULATION
OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION IS A JUST AND NECESSARY
DEMAND ON THE PART OF THE LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN
COUNTRIES, AND THAT AS SUCH IT SHOULD BE THE SUBJECT OF

PRECISE LEGAL PROVISIONS AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL;

2. INEQUITIES CAUSED BY THE EXISTING INTERNATIONAL MACHINERY FOR ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION SHOULD BE BASED UPON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A BETTER BALANCED CIRCULATION OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION;

3. RECOGNIZE EXPLICITLY THAT IN THE COUNTRIES OF THE

REGION THIS CRITERION WILL NOT BE EASY TO APPLY BECAUSE OF THE DIFFERING POLITICAL CRITERIA WITH RESPECT TO FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND THE RIGHT TO INFORMATION;

4. DEFINE AND IMPLEMENT POLICIES, PLANS, AND PDWS# THAT WILL MAKE POSSIBLE THE ADVENT OF MORE BALANCED COMMUNICATION RELATIONS AT BOTH THE NATIONAL AND

INTERNATIONAL LEVELS;

5. RECOGNIZE THAT PROPER CO-ORDINATION WITH THE PRIVATE AND MULTI-NATIONAL SECTOR OF THE INFORMATION

FIELD IS NEEDED IN ORDER TO SET UP MORE SUITABLE MACHINERY TO BRING ABOUT A BALANCED INTERNATIONAL CIRCULATION OF MESSAGES;

6. SHOULD, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FOREGOING, CREATE IN THE COUNTRIES OF THE AREA EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT MACHINERY DESIGNED TO GENERATE INFORMATION AND MESSAGES FOR WIDESPREAD CIRCULATION, THUS GIVING RISE TO AN ACTIVE AND CONSISTENT PROCESS OF PARTICIPATION IN THE WORLDWIDE FLOW OF INFORMATION;
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7. RECOGNIZE THAT THE BACKWARDNESS OF THE REGION IN THIS FIELD MUST BE OVERCOME BY FREELY EXERCISING THE SOVEREIGN RIGHT OF PROVIDING THEMSELVES WITH THE MOST ADEQUATE INSTRUMENTS, SUCH AS: NATIONAL AND REGIONAL NEWS AGENCIES; PUBLIC RADIO AND TELEVISION SERVICES THAT ARE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL IN SCOPE AND RESPAR# THE PRINCIPLES OF INTEGRATION AND BALANCED CIRCULATION; THEIR OWN MACHINERY FOR STIMULATING THE PRESS WHERE IT IS GEOGRAPHICALLY AND ECONOMICALLY MORE DISADVANTAGED; THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL CINEMA INDUSTRIES AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF THEIR PRODUCTS; THE STRENGTHENING OF NATIONAL AND REGIONAL PUBLISHING SYSTEMS AND THE EXPANSION OF THE DISTRIBUTION OF PRINTED MATTER; MORE

EFFICIENT POLICIES FOR THE PRODUCTION, STORAGE AND
INTERNATIONAL DISSEMINATION OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL
INFORMATION, AND ALL THE OTHER INSTRUMENTS AND NORMS THAT
GO TO MAKE UP COHERENT POLICIES, AIMED AT ACTIVELY

PROMOTING GREATER PARTICIPATION BY THE COUNTRIES OF
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN IN THE INTERNATIONAL FLOW
OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION. (END QUOTES)
TODMAN

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED.

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